

Minutes for the ABAC meeting of December 17, 2014

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Scott Smith, Christopher Tonkin, Doug Greenfield, Phil Goff, Ron Sender and Stephan Miller. Also in attendance were Officer Brandon Kindle, Bruce Kulic, Stephen Quinn and Joey Glushko.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

Introductions and greetings were made all around the table.

*The minutes for the November 19 meeting were accepted after some corrections were made.

COBWEB—Officer introduction. Officer Kindle has been a bike cop for years. He told us that some police academies are now requiring bicycle training for all graduates. We discussed how traffic laws should be enforced in Arlington. We felt that the laws should be enforced equally for all modes of transport. We also discussed other means, such as mailing lists or fliers informing cyclists about cycling-related laws such as mailing lists or fliers. Officer Kindle suggested that we go into the schools and give talks about bicycle safety and local traffic laws. Phil and Scott answered that there are already such programs at the Thompson and Hardy Schools.

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Report—Roadway Marking Guidelines to BoS for approval. Scott told us about the TAC deliberations on the Guidelines. TAC had a problem with the lack of mention of bike tracks. They amended the document to fix this problem. We also had a discussion about adding more examples to all the categories. Scott would like to see both ABAC and TAC approve the guidelines before they are presented to the Board of Selectmen (BoS).

Complete Streets Program. Scott told us that the State has not provided any kind of guidance for this program so not much has been done locally on implementation. He also informed us that there have been numerous changes to the transportation section of the Town's Master Plan prompted by suggestions from ABAC and town residents. There will be a public hearing on Jan. 12 discussing the new version.

Signalizing Lake St./Bikeway crossing. TAC wants to bring the issue before the BoS and let them participate in the decision about whether to signalize this intersection. We concluded that we have to do some more thinking about this signal before we are ready to present this project to the BoS.

Use of Lexington's e-mail account (mmbikeway@gmail.com) for dissemination of current conditions on the Bikeway. This email list is Lexington's official listing for Bikeway closures. We discussed various methods of dissemination, such as mailing lists, Twitter, Facebook and other web sites, for different types of notifications. We didn't come to any conclusions about methods and decided to discuss this at the next tri-community meeting. Jack suggested that we do some research and have some good solutions to present to that forum.

Gold's Gym Bikeway Access. Jack has written a letter to the BoS so that they can participate in determining a solution to the problems caused by the entrance to the Bikeway from the Gold's Gym parking lot. The solutions will include some combination of signs and cutting back vegetation. Jack will revise the letter to include our advice on the placement and type of bike rack we would like to see in their parking lot.

Trash receptacles along the Bikeway. Joey informed us that DPW has formed a working group to look at trash pick-up at all Town facilities. Joey will be a member of this working group. The first meeting is next week and she will report back to us on what they decide. The goal is to have a plan in place by early next spring.

Tax bill insert about use of lights and reflective clothing for cycling/walking at night. Scott showed us a mockup of a tax bill insert encouraging the use of lights and reflective clothing for cycling or walking at night. We discussed the need to include a caution to aim headlights downward and an encouragement for

wearing reflective clothing. Jack suggested that we add a title to the document. Joey pointed out that even if we are unable to send this insert with the tax bill, it would be a nice handout to give out at Town Day, at schools, at the Library, or to publish in the Advocate. Scott will revise the text and try to substantiate the statistics cited. Phil will work on the graphics.

Winter Social 2015—Wednesday March 4, 2015. Phil told us that he has received confirmation from Wendy Landman of WalkBoston, Jackie Douglas of Livable Streets, David Loutzenheiser of MAPC and David Watson, former Executive Director of MassBike. Joey is trying to get a representative from the Arlington Police. We discussed what we want from the participants. Jack suggested we consult with the Town Manager, who will be moderating, before we decide on the rules of the discussion. We talked about the advantages and disadvantages of having the social at the Common Ground Restaurant. Christopher will determine the total costs involved for that venue.

News and new topics. Stephan told us that he received an email from Charlotte Milan asking if ABAC would like to share a table at this year's EcoFest with her group of young girls concerned about carbon conservation. The committee seemed generally in favor of participating in EcoFest this year in some way. Stephan volunteered to work up some graphics or other displays for the table.

Bike helmets for Town Day. Joey heard from the law firm that provided us with the helmets we gave out at Town Day last fall. They would like to donate helmets once again this year and want to know how many we think we can give out. Last year, we gave away about 80 helmets and had to turn away disappointed kids so we decided on 100 for this year.

Footpath around Spy Pond. There is a pathway along the pond which runs from the Boys and Girls Club part of the way around the west side of the pond. A new family has moved to this area and has built fences with gates in the path. In order to make the path complete, the town would have to acquire additional easements. There is yet another strip farther on along the water, owned by the Town but access is problematical. Phil mentioned that David Loutzenheiser from MAPC had asked him if there was any interest from Arlington advocacy groups or Town Committees that would be interested in working with him on this issue. We were all in favor of building the footpath but didn't think that ABAC should be directly involved because the path is not suitable for bicycles.

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 pm

*Notes that a vote of the board was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller